

REMARKS

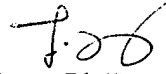
Claims 1-26 and the specification have been amended. Specifically, “safety spinal catheter” has been changed to “flexible spinal needle”. No new matter has been added. All amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer.

Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification including the drawings. “A flexible spinal needle” can find basis in, for example, paragraphs [0018] and [0030] of the specification as filed. Paragraph [0018] of the specification as filed provides “(a) catheter may be characterized as a flexible conduit having distal and proximal ends. Preferred catheters have sufficient transverse flexibility to accommodate patient torso bending movement, whereby substantially to reduce a catheterized patient's awareness of the presence of the catheter.” (emphasis added). Paragraph [0030] of the specification as filed provides “(t)he present invention maybe constructed as an integrated spinal needle and catheter assembly 10 (much like an intravenous needle and catheter) in which the catheter 15 is on the outside.” (emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments as set forth previously in this paper and in the Appendices attached hereto prior to examination of the application on the merits.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Appendix A: Clean version of substitute specification
Appendix B: Marked-up version of substitute specification